

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

Sub A1

1. A vehicle steering column comprising:
an axially extending input shaft for
connecting to a vehicle steering wheel, the input shaft
being rotatable about an axis upon rotation of the
steering wheel;
a housing at least partially enclosing the
input shaft;
a bearing being interposed between the
housing and the input shaft and supporting the input
shaft for rotation about the axis;
the housing having at least one series of
axially spaced, annular ribs that at least partially
extend around the bearing, axially adjacent annular
ribs being separated by an annular groove; and
a gasket being interposed between the bearing and
the ribs, the gasket encircling the bearing, and the
ribs resisting axial movement of the gasket.

2. The vehicle steering column of claim 1
further being defined by:

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7. The vehicle steering column of claim 1 further being defined by:

each annular groove having a valley, the valley being flat and forming a bottom surface of a cavity, the valley having an axial length in the range of 0.012 to 0.022 inches.

8. The vehicle steering column of claim 1 further being defined by:

each rib of the series of ribs having side surfaces that extend from the bottom surface at an angle of approximately 57 degrees.

9. The vehicle steering column of claim 1 further being defined by:

the housing having two series of ribs, the two series being axially separated by a smooth annular surface;

a bearing being interposed between the input shaft and each series of ribs in the housing; and

a gasket being interposed between the respective bearing and the series of ribs.

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